

ANIMAL LAWS: EVERY PET OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Animal control is everyone's concern. All citizens are concerned because of the close relationship between people and animals in our community. Baltimore County's Animal Control, Animal Licensing and Animal Hearing Board strive to make this relationship as safe and enjoyable as possible for both citizens and their animals. Most animal (pet) control problems are preventable. Overpopulation of unwanted animals, and unrestrained pets are our most numerous complaints. Spay/Neutering your pet and awareness and compliance with the laws will enhance the quality of life for both pets and citizens.

To attain this goal, specific laws have been created to address those issues special to animals. The Animal Control Division is responsible for the enforcement of these laws.

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS OF PET OWNERSHIP ARE IMPORTANT TO ALL CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

1. When off the owner's property, all dogs and cats must be walked on a leash. If chained outside, chains must have swivels. Chain collars may not be used, except when training.
2. All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies once they are over three (3) months of age.
3. All dogs and cats must be licensed at four (4) months of age. New pets must be licensed within thirty (30) days and all animals moving into the County must be licensed in thirty (30) days.
4. All animals must be provided a shelter for protection from wind, snow, rain, cold and the sun, as well as food and water on a daily basis.
5. Owners of female cats and dogs "in heat" must not leave their pets outside unattended. (Although spaying female or neutering male animals is not required, it is highly recommended.)
6. An animal that is allowed to bark excessively, to chase and/or attack people or other animals is considered a public nuisance.
7. If an animal bites someone, the owner and the bitten person must report the injury to the Police Department. You are responsible if your pet bites or injures another person or animal.
8. Owners are responsible for the removal of pet waste on public and private property. Keep your yard and neighborhood clean.
9. Do not abandon or neglect pets you cannot keep. Instead, call Animal Control for assistance.
10. Improper feeding, unsanitary conditions, animal combat, cruelty and neglect are all considered animal abuse. Check with your veterinarian or Animal Control for animal problems.

Animal Control Officers are empowered with the enforcement authority for state and local laws involving animals. Persons violating these laws may be subject to fines.

First Offense: \$25. Repeated Offenses: \$100. Criminal penalties may also be imposed up to \$1,000 in fines, up to ninety (90) days in jail, or both.

Persons receiving a violation notice must correct the situation and pay any appropriate fines or request, in writing, a hearing before the Animal Hearing Board within five (5) days of receiving the violation notice.

Animal licenses may be obtained from the following Baltimore County locations:
Dial 410 before each of the following numbers.

County Office Building
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson .. 887-3630
Balto. Co. Animal Shelter, Baldwin 887-5961
Balto. Co. Humane Society, Reisterstown 833-4480
Outdoor Sportsman Stores, Essex 391-0222
North Point Gov't. Center, Dundalk . . . 887-7174
All Baltimore County full service libraries
For Licensing Warden in your area 887-3630

NOTE: Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for all dog and cat licenses.

SELLING OF ANIMALS

Maryland law requires any puppy or kitten sold or given away be at least eight (8) weeks of age. Baltimore County law requires anyone selling or giving away a puppy, kitten, dog or cat to provide a health certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian. A statement indicating date of sale or transfer of animal, description of animal, immunizations given and name, address and phone number of buyer and seller must be provided also.

PET OVERPOPULATION

It is estimated that over 3,000 puppies and kittens are born in the United States every hour (compared to 415 human births per hour). This equates to over 72,000 per day; 90% of these animals will be homeless. Private pet owners contribute to over 80% of this surplus.

IF YOU CARE AT ALL FOR ANIMALS, PLEASE ...

do your part to stop this tragic overpopulation problem. Spay/Neuter and keep your pets safe at home. Yours is the only "family" your pet needs. Low cost spaying/neutering is available.

Serving People and Animals

ANIMAL CONTROL INFORMATION



Baltimore County

Department of Health



ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

410-887-5961

(Number may be called 24 hours)

13800 Manor Road
Baldwin, Maryland 21013

ANIMAL SHELTER

Open to public: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and closed Sunday.

DIRECTIONS

Take Exit 27 North, off of interstate 695. Follow Dulaney Valley Road to stop sign at Manor Road. Turn left at stop sign on Manor Road. Follow Manor Road for approximately 1 mile. Animal Control/Animal Shelter will be on the left-hand side.

IF YOU HAVE LOST A PET

If your pet is wearing its Baltimore County Individual Animal License, rabies tag and/or an ID tag, every effort will be made to trace the tag and contact the owner. Pet owners are also encouraged to come to the shelter and look for their pet. Bring a picture of the lost pet so that we may post it along with "lost pet" cards on our bulletin board.

Unlicensed Pets May Never Be Found!

IF YOU FIND A LOST PET

All stray dogs and cats should be turned over to the Animal Shelter to provide worried owners the opportunity to check for their lost pet promptly. If the found pet is not redeemed by its owner, it may be reclaimed by the person who turned it in. A rabies vaccination and an animal license will be

necessary at a modest fee. The other fees associated with redemption will be waived.

Stray animals are housed for four (4) working days at the Animal Shelter. Owners may reclaim their pets or the animals will be put up for adoption or humanely destroyed.

REDEMPTION OF PETS

Owners wishing to redeem their pets should bring proof of current rabies vaccination and proof of a current animal license. If the owner cannot provide the verification, the rabies vaccination and the license will be provided, for a fee, prior to the animal being released. There are also fees for redemption and the boarding of the animal.

ADOPTION OF PETS

Animals are available for adoption, Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for a fee. The animals will be at least eight (8) weeks of age, of good temperament and health. The following veterinary services may be provided by the Shelter: worming, the first series of vaccinations, a heartworm check, and rabies vaccination. The pet will then be licensed and may be taken home. Every animal adopted must be spayed or neutered. The adopter will receive a discount certificate towards having the animal altered at any of the many participating veterinarians.



RABIES VACCINATION

Low cost rabies vaccinations are available, but must be arranged in advance. Call 410-887-5961 for an appointment.

THE ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

is available to assist the public with a variety of services relating to animal matters.

Some of these services include:

- Handling complaints regarding dogs and cats running loose, barking dogs or other nuisance animals.
- Providing humane traps to citizens to assist with resolving the problems of loose dogs or cats on their property.
- Handling complaints on injured, sick and/or vicious animals.
- Investigating reports of animal cruelty or neglect. Investigating unsanitary conditions.
- Picking up stray, unwanted dogs and cats. Kennel enclosures are maintained at police stations for the public to take an unwanted animal for Animal Control to pick-up.
- Picking up of dead animals (except farm animals).
- Appraising livestock killed by dogs.
- Inspecting of private and commercial kennels, grooming parlors, pet shops and other holding facilities.
- Educational programs for schools and other interested groups.

WILD ANIMALS

A special permit is required to keep a wild animal as a pet, for display for exhibition, on your property. (Includes snakes, monkeys and other animals that are normally in the wild.) Contact Animal Licensing, 410-887-3630 for details and an application.

FARM CATS

A single farm cat license may be obtained for cats that are kept on agricultural or industrial property for the purpose of maintaining rodent control. Contact Animal Licensing, 410-887-3630 for details and an application.



IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN THREE (3) DOGS ON YOUR PROPERTY

All households that shelter four (4) or more dogs, private or commercial kennels, or stables, fancier kennels or catteries, grooming parlors, pet shops, etc. should contact Animal Licensing, 410-887-3630 to obtain information and an application for a Holding Facility License.

ANIMAL HEARING BOARD

410-887-5964

13800 Manor Road
Baldwin, Maryland 21013

The Animal Hearing Board will hear appeals of violation notices. Mail appeal requests to the above address. The Board also holds public hearings on issues affecting animals in the community. Call 410-887-5964 for details.

ANIMAL INFORMATION RESOURCES IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

Dial 410 before each of following numbers.

Animal Bites: Health Department 887-2724
Animal Control Division 887-5961
Animal Shelter 887-5961
Animal Hearing Board 887-5964
Animal Licensing, Towson 887-3630
Dog Obedience Classes: Rec & Parks . . 887-3806

OTHER RESOURCES

Animal Control, Baltimore City 396-4694
Low cost spaying & neutering:
Humane Society 833-4480
SNAP: Spay/Neuter All Pets 426-2020
National Dog Registry 277-4485
Natural Resources, Dept. of 356-7060
Wildlife Problems 1-800-442-0708